

Camp near Bell Plain
Jan Feb 7th/63

My Dear father and sister Mary
I received your letters
and I was glad to hear from
you both, I was on picket
when I got Marys and I put
it in my pocket and forgot
all about it untill yesterday
when I found it in my
pocket, there is nothing new
here only one thing and that
is the 6th Me. have gone
into a light brigade and
they have moved where
they have gone to I do
not know I saw William
two days before they moved
and he told me they was
going only about three
miles further off and
there they were going to

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MMN # 97573

Date: Feb. 7, 1863

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on failure of Army of Potomac

stay most likely all winter one thing is sure they cannot go a great ways the mud is so deep it rains every two or three days regular and that keeps the mud just so.

I felt quite well when I could go and see William every day but when I rode by their encampment and found that they were gone you may feel assured that I felt bad but then I can go to see in once in a while.

Camp life is a dismal thing in the rainy season I often wish that I was at home beside a good fire. I suppose you are not aware that the Army of the Potomac is heart sick of this war every man says we must acknowledge the Southern Confederacy and they go further they say we will have to do so. you dont know these things as well as I do for I see them every day. what do you think the army of the Potomac will do when 50,000-9 months men go home in the spring in most every other state we have gained victory after victory but in Virginia we have been whipped and whipped the truth of the matter is the army of the Potomac has proved an utter failure. I must close for my fire is all going out

John P Sheahan

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